

**ADVOCATE HEALTH CARE**  
**OUR PURCHASE AND USE OF CHEMICALS: GUIDING AIMS AND PRINCIPLES**  
*Approved by the Health Outcomes Council May 24, 2011*

**OUR GUIDING AIMS**

1. To minimize exposure of people and the environment to harms associated with chemicals in products we use.
2. To promote an economic and political climate that lowers the risks of harm from chemicals used in health care.

**OUR PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES**

1. Identify hazards associated with chemicals in products that we buy and use. To build an adequate knowledge base, we will consistently request product chemistry from our suppliers.
2. Assess product hazards relative to product benefits. We will build our knowledge of potential harmful effects associated with chemicals we may use. *We will develop balancing principles to aid our decision making regarding harms, benefits, and costs.*
3. Avoid or minimize hazards in light of our assessment. We will encourage suppliers to use chemicals with inherently low hazard potential, eliminate chemicals of high concern, minimize exposure when hazards cannot be prevented, and redesign or call for redesign of products and processes that may use or generate hazardous chemicals.
4. Continually enhance our knowledge about chemicals and our practices in managing them. We will refine our framework for assessing hazards, seek new opportunities to improve safety, and adjust our practices and processes accordingly.
5. Partner with others to develop and enhance healthcare provider and vendor industry standards for hazard reduction. We will support standards that we believe can eliminate or reduce known hazards and promote a greener economy.
6. Engage as an active participant and leader in the public dialogue about industry practices and public policy in chemicals use. We will seek through this dialogue to advance implementation of our aims and principles.